

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMTM DHAHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 066153

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USMTM HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOL SENT ACTION JIDDA SANAA ADDIS ABABA AMMAN LONDON TEHRAN
USCINCEUR 10 APR 73 RPT TO YOU QUOTE

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E. O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MCAF, MPS, MASS, YE, YS

SUBJECT: YAR REQUEST FOR URGENT U. S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE

1. AMBASSADOR SHOULD SEEK MEETING WITH MINISTER DEFENSE
PRINCE SULTAN (AND WITH SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
PRINCE FAHD IF HE HAS RETURNED) TO DISCUSS YAR REQUEST
FOR SUPPLY HIGH- PRIORITY MILITARY ITEMS. AMBASSADOR
SHOULD SAY THAT WHILE WE ARE CONTINUING TO ASSESS PDRY
INTENTIONS, WE WANT TO SHARE WITH SAG OUR INTELLIGENCE
INFORMATION REGARDING SITUATION ALONG YAR/ PDRY BORDER.
OUR OWN INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THERE WERE PDRY TROOP
CONCENTRATIONS AS OF THREE WEEKS AGO IN BORDER AREAS
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INDICATED TO US BY YAR BUT THAT THESE HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN REDUCED. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME SOVIET DELIVERIES OF EQUIPMENT BUT NOT IN THE QUANTITIES INDICATED TO US BY YAR. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE HAVE BEEN NO AMPHIBIOUS TROOP CARRIERS. SOME MIG-21 AIRCRAFT ARE BEING SUPPLIED BY THE USSR, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO INDICATION THEY HAVE YET ARRIVED. YAR LEADERSHIP HAS HAD TIME TO REVIEW MILITARY SITUATION AND NOW FEELS THAT THREAT OF INVASION IS NOT AS IMMINENT AS IT HAD EARLIER INDICATED TO US. HOWEVER, IT DOES BELIEVE POTENTIAL FOR PDRY ATTACK ON YAR REMAINS.

WE WILL SHORTLY BE SENDING FULLER AND LONGER- RANGE ASSESSMENT PDRY AND IRAQI THREATS REQUESTED BY MINSTATE SAQQAF.

2. IN CASE OF YAR, THERE ARE LONG- RANGE AS WELL AS SHORT- RANGE PROBLEMS TO BE DEALT WITH. LONG RANGE INVOLVES DEVELOPING WELL- THOUGHT OUT AND REALISTIC PLAN TO IMPROVE YAR MILITARY CAPABILITY. USMTM ADVISORS WILL BE ASSISTING SAUDI ARMY TO DEVELOP SUCH A PLAN. IT ALSO INVOLVES PLANS FOR TRAINING YAR ARMY IN USE CERTAIN TYPES OF EQUIPMENT. SHORT- RANGE PROBLEM RELATES TO RESPONDING TO YAR REQUEST FOR EQUIPMENT WHICH YAR FEELS URGENTLY NEEDED HELP DETER POSSIBLE PDRY INVASION ITS TERRITORY AND TO STRENGTHEN YAR CAPABILITIES SHOULD SUCH AN ATTACK OCCUR.

3. AT PRESENT TIME, WE BELIEVE SAUDIS IN BEST POSITION TO HELP IN BOTH REGARDS. HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO AFFIRM TO SAG DESIRE OF U. S. TO COOPERATE EFFECTIVELY IN WORKING TO ENHANCE STABILITY OF ARABIAN PENINSULA. WE REMAIN VERY CONSCIOUS OF FRAMEWORK SUGGESTED BY PRINCE SULTAN IN PAPER HE GAVE PRESIDENT LAST YEAR AND EMPHASIS WHICH IT PLACED ON REGIONAL COLLECTIVE SECURITY EFFORTS. WE CONTINUE TO SHARE SAUDI VIEW THAT THIS IS BEST APPROACH TO PROBLEMS OF PENINSULAR SECURITY, INCLUDING PRESENT THREAT TO YAR. FYI: OUR OBJECTIVE NOW IS TO CONVEY TO SAUDIS OUR CONCEPT THAT WE SEE PENINSULAR/ GULF STABILITY AS AN INTERRELATED WHOLE, THAT USG AND SAG HAVE MUTUALITY
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OF INTEREST IN SECURITY OF THAT REGION, AND THAT OUR

EFFORTS TO THAT END SHOULD BE BASED ON COOPERATIVE
RELATIONSHIP IN WHICH EACH OF US MAKES CONTRIBUTIONS
BASED ON KIND OF RESOURCES EACH OF US HAS AVAILABLE.
END FYI.

4. WE HAVE BEEN SURVEYING AVAILABILITY OF ITEMS ON
YAR PRIORITY LIST FROM STOCKS OF FRIENDLY NEIGHBORING
COUNTRIES AND FROM OUR OWN STOCKS AS WELL. OUR INITIAL
CONCLUSION IS THAT MOST OF ITEMS REQUESTED BY YAR,
ESPECIALLY MACHINE GUNS, TRUCKS, AND WATER CARRIERS COULD
BE FURNISHED MOST EXPEDITIOUSLY BY SAUDI ARABIA. WE
THINK IT IMPORTANT TO BOOST YAR MORALE IF AT LEAST
TOKEN SHIPMENTS OF THESE ITEMS COULD BE MADE QUICKLY.
IT IS ALSO OUR IMPRESSION THAT SAUDIS COULD PROVIDE SOME
106 MM RECOILLESS RIFLES AND LOAN YAR TEMPORARILY A FEW
SAUDI HELICOPTERS, WITH THEIR CREWS AND APPROPRIATE
GROUND SUPPORT.

5. SINCE SAG IS MOST LOGICAL IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF
ASSISTANCE TO YAR, US WOULD BE READY APPROVE SAG
REQUESTS FOR TRANSFER OF U. S. EQUIPMENT IN SAUDI STOCKS
ACQUIRED THROUGH FMS WHICH NEEDED MEET YAR PRIORITY LIST
AND TO FURNISH SAG WITH REPLACEMENT ITEMS ON A REIM-
BURSABLE BASIS. FYI: WE WOULD ALSO REQUIRE YAR
ASSURANCES AGAINST TRANSFERS OF FMS EQUIPMENT FROM
SAUDI ARABIA TO THIRD PARTIES WITHOUT USG CONCURRENCE.
END FYI. WE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ASSURE REPLACE-
MENT ITEMS ARE FURNISHED SAG PROMPTLY, USING EITHER U. S.
MILITARY AIRLIFT CAPABILITIES OR COMMERCIAL CHARTER WHEN
NECESSARY FOR AS MANY ITEMS AS POSSIBLE. U. S. WOULD
BE PREPARED TO HELP BEAR PORTION OF TRANSPORTATION COSTS
OF REPLACEMENT ITEMS. HOWEVER, NO FIRM AMOUNT CAN BE
GIVEN AS THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN OUR
TWO GOVERNMENTS IF SAUDIS ACCEPT THIS OFFER. SINCE
YAR HAS NO KNOWN CAPABILITY OF USING 106 MM RECOILLESS
RIFLES, YAR ARMY WOULD HAVE TO BE TRAINED IN THEIR USE
BY SAUDI ARMY. FOR THIS PURPOSE, U. S. WOULD ALSO BE
PREPARED DETAIL SMALL NUMBER U. S. MILITARY PERSONNEL TO
ASSIST SAUDI ARABIAN ARMY DEVELOP 106 MM RECOILLESS
TRAINING CAPABILITY IF SAUDI ARMY OR USMTM DO NOT ALREADY
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HAVE SUCH CAPABILITY. ALL SUCH TRAINING WOULD OF COURSE
BE CONDUCTED AT NORMAL SAUDI ARMY TRAINING CENTERS
INSIDE KINGDOM. OBJECTIVE OF THIS TRAINING WOULD BE
TO DEVELOP CADRE OF SAUDI PERSONNEL WHO COULD IN TURN
INSTRUCT YAR TROOPS IN OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF

THIS WEAPON. ROGERS. UNQUOTE ROGERS

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